

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims provided below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A cutting tool comprising:

a cutting head defining a central bore adapted to cut and retain a sample of material;
a plunger disposed in the bore defining a rod which is disposed in and movable along the bore, the plunger being either formed of a ferro-magnetic material or having a portion of ferro-magnetic material attached thereto; and

a solenoid disposed around the plunger or electromagnetic ferromagnetic material wherein operation of the solenoid causes the plunger to move to eject the spot sample of material from the cutting head.

7. (Currently Amended) A cutting tool comprising:

(a) a cutting tip means having a bore therethrough;
(b) a cutting tip holder for holding the cutting tip means;
(c) an ejector pin, one end of which is disposed in bore of the cutting tip, the pin being moveable along the bore of the cutting tip;
(d) a magnet or a piece of ferromagnetic material integral with or attached to the ejector pin distal from the one end;
(e) a solenoid disposed around the magnet or ferro magnetic material for causing the pin to move in the bore in a direction which expels material from the cutting tip when the solenoid is energised; and
(f) return means for causing the pin to move in the opposite direction when the solenoid is not energised.

8. (Previously Presented) The cutting tool of claim 7 wherein a magnet is attached to the ejector pin distal from the one end and wherein the return means is also a magnet.

9. (Previously Presented) The cutting tool of claim 7 wherein the return means is a spring.
10. (Previously Presented) The cutting tool of claim 7 wherein the cutting tip is removable and disposable.
11. (Previously Presented) The cutting tool of claim 7 wherein the cutting tool includes a body portion comprising a generally cylindrical tube defining a central bore, in which the solenoid is disposed, with the lower end of the bore being closed by the cutting tip holder.
12. (Currently Amended) The cutting tool of claim 7 wherein the cutting tip has an annular cross section with a wider cylindrical portion which locates inside of the central bore of the body portion and tapers in a generally conical fashion to a narrow portion which forms the cutting head, the tip being made of a translucent material such as plastic or glass.